

# **King County Residential Recycling Tips**

## **September 2006**

### **1. Get to know your garbage**

More than half of what ends up in King County's landfill is readily recyclable. Knowing what's in your trash that can be recycled is the first step toward more effective recycling.

### **2. Treat your home to a recycling makeover**

Research shows that families with convenient recycling systems in their homes recycle more. Having appropriate containers in the right places will minimize household clutter and help make recycling easy. Place a recycling container near your kitchen garbage can and empty it when you take out the trash. Consider placing recycling containers in other areas of your house where waste is generated or disposed of, such as the garage, family room or home office.

### **3. Make recycling a family affair**

Involve everyone in the family in recycling - they can help! Talk about what can and can't be recycled, and have them check to make sure other family members are doing a good job recycling. Post recycling guidelines in a prominent area for easy reference.

### **4. Say goodbye to "ick"**

Avoid the temptation to toss out hard-to-clean containers, such as peanut butter jars. Use a spatula or brush to remove remaining food waste from recyclable jars, bottles and other containers. Soak hard-to-clean containers with soapy water to make rinsing easier.

### **5. Food waste and food-soiled paper now can be recycled in many areas.**

More than half of King County residents now have curbside food waste recycling as part of their yard waste service. Fruits and vegetables, egg shells, nut shells and other items can be recycled – even food soiled paper such as paper plates, napkins, pizza boxes and frozen food containers. These items make up nearly 30 percent of the county's residential garbage. Keep recyclable food in a covered container and frequently empty it into your yard waste bin.

**For more about the Recycling Education Campaign, visit**  
**[www.metrokc.gov/recyclemore](http://www.metrokc.gov/recyclemore)**